

**State Board of Education
Transformation Discussion with Parents
October 16, 2007**

Parents broke into three groups to respond to three questions, facilitated by Department staff.

1. What current practices would you like to see established system wide?

- Responsive classroom approach – empowers students to monitor their own respectful behavior- Developmental approach design – creating communities within the classroom – social curriculum.
- It is a good system but has different effects from different schools.
- Four Winds Process – parents interact in the learning outdoor program. Branching out – finding a mentor in the community and take classes that are not offered in the school.
- High School choice/Public School Choice.
- Flexibility for home schoolers to take classes in the public schools.
- Begin really looking at the student and finding out about their learning styles and abilities as early as Kindergarten.
- Mainstreaming of special needs students is good and really promotes tolerance.
- Math program called Continental Math League should be offered as part of the math class.
- 8th grade and senior exit project – get community mentors, great way to get the connection with people who don't have kids
 - daughter is going to work with vet, learn to give shots – will try on for a little while
- As a responsible parent, teaching beyond the classroom. Finding what piques student's interest
- Online learning to broaden horizons

2. What new practices would you like to see established system wide?

- Too much emphasis on students doing the same stuff as others in the same grade and the same age.
- More opportunity for students to share with us what they need to learn.
- Get away from grade levels and let students learn at their own speed.
- Teach students how to learn. Individual learning plans. Distance education.
- Recognizing there are many ways for children to be educated.
- How do we bring the students in, why aren't you in school, what can we do to help you become educated.
- What are the core things they need to be good citizens. Teach kids how to think.
- Do not burn out and torture the teachers.
- Total involvement with the community.
- Reach out to all the people in the community, in a way they feel comfortable to accept. Maybe quietly over a cup of coffee, don't intimidate.
- Community coming together and working more together
- School not being so competitive
- Extremely important that there be one adult who student can be advised by & trust

- Have someone in school who would be an advocate for every student
- Helping parents feel like they know ‘enough’ (empowering parents to work with the schools)
- School choice – options for smaller schools with respect for parents’ perspective
- What makes home schoolers successful – own definitions, individualized assessments, standards, they decide who can teach in schools
- Trading students between schools
- Materials to address everyone’s learning style
- Virtual environment (students need access to technology to be prepared for world ahead)
- Being part of fabric of community, apprenticeships, instilling values, school-business partnerships (schools understand what’s beyond the school doors)
- More opportunities for parent input

3. What questions does the document raise for you as parents?

- What do you mean by ‘system’
- How can we afford that?
- Think outside the box
- Stop depending on testing.
- Homework every night 2.5 hours.
- How will we educate the teachers.